DEMAND NO. 48—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

70 *Capital Outlay on Improvement of Public Health*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,15,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1960 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Improvement of Public Health.'"

DEMAND NO. 50—APPROPRIATION TO IRRIGATION AND POWER DEVELOPMENT FUND.

80-*B Appropriation to Irrigation and Power Development Fund.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,00,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1960, in respect of 'Appropriation to Irrigation and Power Development Fund'."

DEMAND NO. 51—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS.

81. *Capital Account of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,56,58,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1960, in respect of 'Capital Account of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account'."

DEMAND NO. 52—CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF ELECTRICITY SCHEMES OUTSIDE THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

81-*A Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,57,19,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1960, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Electricity schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 53—CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF OTHER WORKS OUTSIDE THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

82. *Capital Account of other Works outside the Revenue Account.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,45,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1950, in respect of 'Capital Account of other Works outside the Revenue Account'."

Statement by Minister

*Sri N. RACHIAH (Minister for Social Welfare, Prohibition and Excise).—Sir, before the next demand is taken up for discussion I seek your permission to make a clarification with regard to the points raised about my tour by some of the Opposition Members yesterday.

Sri G. N. PUTTANNA (Tumkur).—Before the Hon'ble Minister makes a statement, I have got a representation.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Let him finish.

Sri G. N. PUTTANNA.—I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do not allow such things. A representation cannot be a point of order.

Sri N. RACHIAH.—Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, in the afternoon session of the Assembly, some Hon'ble Members of the Opposition have raised a point in my absence alleging that I had left the headquarters, disregarding the fact that the Assembly Session was going on, that too for the purpose of participating in the propaganda connected with the Municipal bye-elections, that this behaviour of mine has killed democracy and that the Ministry which participate in such propaganda should go. As a protest, it appears, some of the Opposition Members left the House. I may be permitted, Sir, to clarify the position in this connection.

Sir, the statements made by the members who are experienced

(SRI N. RACHIAH)

legislators—one of them the Chief whip of the Opposition Party–are absolutely incorrect and not based on truth. If I may say so, Sir, this is highly uncharitable and undemocratic on the part of the members belonging to the Opposition Party which is recognised by this House. Sir, I was in my Chambers till 2 P.M. yesterday. I attended the Assembly Session in the morning and at the end of the sitting, I went to my Chamber to attend to urgent files. In the meanwhile, I learnt that the House had adjourned and I immediately telephoned to you, Sir, and enquired as to the Demands that would be taken up for today. You were kind enough to inform that Demand No. 3 pertaining to Excise Duties and Demand No. 40-A pertaining to Rural Development and the Demand pertaining to Revenue would be taken up today. I proceeded on tour at about 2-45 P.M. as per my original tour programme issued on 13th March 1959. If the members so desire, I shall place a copy of the Tour Programme on the Table of the House for the information of the members. I refute vehemently all the allegations that have been made against me, particularly that I had gone to participate in the propaganda in connection with the Municipal bye-elections. I had to inspect the Harijan localities in Manchenahally and Gauribidanur and other villages where there were Harijan problems to be solved and as such, on official duty I visited these places. Besides, I was not at all aware that there was any Municipal bye-election whatsoever. Even when I visited the place, no resident of Manchenahally Town brought to my notice that there was Municipal bye-election. Sir, I have all faith in and respect for democray and I have the least intention to disregard this august House. Sir, there was no work before the House pertaining to my departments and the Demand pertaining to Civil Works was going on.

With regard to the allegation levelled against me by the Hon'ble Member Sri Venkata Reddy, I would like to inform the House that Sri Venkata Reddy met me day before yesterday and he invited me for tea in his house. I agreed. Yesterday also he came to my Chamber and said that he would accompany me. I also welcomed his idea of accompanying me. But, while going, I tried my best to contact him and he was not available. I learnt that while I was taking food in my residencee he had come to my residence to accompany me. Immediately after I took lunch, I came out to meet him, but I found that he was not there and he had left word with my staff that he would not be coming. In this connection I would like to say that if I were to go to participate in the Municipal bye-election propaganda in favour of any Congress candidate, would an Hon'ble Member who belongs to the Opposition Party ever have come and requested that he would also accompany me in car during my tour? This clearly shows that there was no election propaganda whatsoever. Sir, as a responsible member of the Government, I pretty well know that even if there were to be any such participation in the propaganda and if I had to go for that work, I would have gone only in a private vehicle and participated in the propaganda work. There was no such request from the local Congress Committee nor did any Hon'ble Member belonging to the Congress Party request me to do so.

Sir, all these allegations are baseless and far from truth. I regret very much that some responsible members of the Opposition made these baseless allegations, particularly when I was not in the House to defend myself. I have made this statement not with a view to challenge, but to make the position clear and to clear the doubt, if any, that Hon'ble Members may have with regard to the purpose of the tour.

MR. SPEAKER.—After the statement of the Hon'ble Minister, no other member will be allowed either to question or in any way to contradict him.